November 25, 1963
9:20 p.m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MARTIN LUTHER KING

LBJ: .....your interest and your cooperation and your communication and a good many people told me that they heard about your statement...I guess, on television...wasn't it?

MLK: Yes, that's right.

LBJ: I've been locked up in this office and haven't seen it but I want to tell you how grateful I am and how worthy I'm going to try to be of all your hopes....

MLK; Well, thank you very much, I am so happy to hear that and I knew that you had just that great spirit and you know you have our support and backing...we know what a difficult period this is..

LBJ: It's just an impossible period...we've got a budget coming up that has...nothing to do with it...practically already made...and we've got civil rights bill...it hasn't even passed the House...and its November and Hubert Humphrey told me yesterday everybody wanted to go home...we've got a tax bill that they haven't touched...we just got to not let up on any of them and keep going and I guess they'll say that I'm repudiating...but I'm going to ask the Congress Wednesday to just stay there till they pass them all...they won't do it...but we'll just keep them here till next year until they do and we just won't give up an inch...

MLK: Well, this is mighty fine. I think its so imperative. I think one of the greatest tributes that we can pay in memory of President Kennedy is to try to enact some of the great progressive policies that he sought to initiate...

LBJ: Well, I'm going to support them all and you can count on that and I'm going to do my best to get other men to do likewise and I'll have to have you'alls help...I never needed it more than I do now..

MLK: Well you know you have it and feel free to call on us for anything. Regards to the family.

LBJ: Thank you so much, Martin. Call me when you're down here next time and let's get together and any suggestions you've got, bring them in.

MLK: Fine, fine. I certainly will do that.

LBJ: Thank you so much, my friend.

Copy LBJ Library

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING, NOVEMBER 25, 1963, 9:20 p.m.

(Came in late on conversation, but obviously Martin Luther King had made a statement, which I don't have.)

The President said....."your interest and your cooperation and your communication and a good many people told me that they heard about your statement. I guess--on television--wasn't it?"

Mr. King said that was right.

The President went on to say:

"I have been locked up in this office and haven't seen it but I want to tell you how grateful I am and how worthy I am going to try to be of all your hopes....."

Mr. King replied by saying:

"Well, thank you very much, I am so happy to hear that and I knew that you had just that great spirit and you know you have our support and backing...we know what a difficult period this is."

The President told him that it was just an impossible period, that they had a budget coming up practically already made and the civil rights bill which hadn't even passed the House and that it was November and Hubert Humphrey told the President just yesterday that everybody wanted to go home..The President said there was the tax bill that they hadn't touched and that they just could not afford to let up on any of them and keep going and he was going to ask the Congress on Wednesday to just stay there until they pass all of them. He said he did not believe they would do it, but he would just keep Congress there until next year until they do and that he did not intend to give an inch.

Mr. King said:

"Well, this is mighty fine. I think it is so imperative. I think one of the greatest tributes that we can pay in memory of President Kennedy is to try to enact some of the great progressive policies that he sought to initiate."

The President replied by saying:

"Well, I am going to support them all and you can count on that

Copy LBJ Library

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING, NOVEMBER 25, 1963, 9:20 p.m.

(Martin Luther King had made statement on television, which we don't have.)

The President said....."Your interest and your cooperation and your communication and a good many people told me that they heard about your statement. I guess--on television--wasn't it?"

Mr. King said that was right.

The President went on to say:

"I have been locked up in this office and haven't seen it but I want to tell you how grateful I am and how worthy I am going to try to be of all your hopes....."

Mr. King replied by saying:

"Well, thank you very much. I am so happy to hear that and I knew that you had just that great spirit and you know you have our support and backing. We know what a difficult period this is."

The President told him that it was just an impossible period, that they had a budget coming up practically already made and the civil rights bill which hadn't even passed the House and that it was November and Hubert Humphrey told the President just yesterday that everybody wanted to go home. The President said there was the tax bill that they hadn't touched and that they just could not afford to let up on any of them and keep going and he was going to ask the Congress on Wednesday to just stay there until they pass them all. He said he did not believe they would do it, but he would just keep Congress there until next year until they do and that he did not intend to give an inch.

Mr. King said:

Well, this is mighty fine. I think it is so imperative. I think one of the greatest tributes that we can pay in memory of President Kennedy is to try to enact some of the great progressive policies that he sought to initiate."

The President replied by saying:

"Well, I am going to support them all and you can count on that

Copy LBJ Library

and I am going to do my best to get other men to do likewise and I will have to have your help. I never needed it more than I do now."

Mr. King replied by saying:

"Well you know you have it and feel free to call on us for anything. Regards to the family."

The President thanked Mr. King and said for him to call him when he was down that way next time and they would get together. He said that any suggestions he had to please bring them in. Mr. King said that he certainly would do that.

Copy LBJ Library